



PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. SECRET SERVICE LEADS SKIMMER DISRUPTION WEEK “V2” IN ADVANCE OF FOURTH OF JULY HIGH MOTORIST TRAVEL PERIOD

(Washington, D.C.) – This week, Secret Service agents are participating in a nationwide initiative to locate and recover illegal credit card skimming devices from fueling stations in advance of the upcoming Fourth of July holiday. Operations are being conducted at locations across 21 states and involving 36 Secret Service field offices. Agents will inspect pumps for illegal skimming devices.

Skimming is a technique that uses electronic devices to steal encoded information on credit cards to commit fraud. Criminals surreptitiously install the small devices, known as *skimmers*, at gas pumps where they are able to capture the protected data of unsuspecting victims. Fueling stations are a prime target due the frequency of use and the criminal’s ability to install the devices and recover the stolen data undetected. Because today’s gas pumps are typically unattended, developing suspects and making arrests in skimming cases is difficult - but not impossible. The Secret Service is leading the charge to protect the U.S. consumer against this growing cyber-enabled financial crime.

AAA is estimating this coming holiday week will be the busiest Fourth of July travel period in history with estimates of more than 44 million Americans hitting the road.

The U.S. Secret Service led a hugely successful campaign to counter skimming operations around the country prior to the 2018 Memorial Day Weekend. The nationwide event led to the recovery of more than 70 skimmers.

These initiatives demonstrate the commitment of the Secret Service to combat cyber-enabled financial crimes and secure our nation’s financial infrastructure. Special Agents and Investigative Analysts from around the country will continue to work closely with state and local law enforcement partners to minimize risks by informing the public and apprehending those responsible for credit card skimming operations.

****Credit card fraud is a Federal offense, carrying stiff penalties including heavy fines and lengthy prison sentences. More information for consumers who would like to report credit card fraud or protect themselves can be found at www.secretservice.gov. Select the “About” tab, FAQs, and scroll down to “Protecting Yourself” or simply click [here](#).**